

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim of Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action, and for attaching the Notices of References Cited and PTO-1449 form, the form having been appropriately initialed by the Examiner to indicate consideration of the documents.

Upon entry of the present amendment, the drawings, the Abstract of the Disclosure, the specification, and claims 1-6 will have been amended. In addition, new dependent claims 7-12 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) and 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). In addition, the Examiner objected to certain wording in the Abstract of the the Disclosure. Further, the Examiner objected to various informalities in the specification. Lastly, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 4, 5, and 6.

With respect to the Examiner's objections to the drawings, Applicant notes that replacements sheets have been included herewith for Figs. 1, 2, and 3. As to the Examiner's objection with respect to the Abstract of the Disclosure, Applicant has provided herewith a marked up copy of a revised Abstract of Disclosure, which has been revised substantially in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation in the Official Action.

Applicant further notes that the specification has been amended substantially as requested by the Examiner to corrected the informalities noted in the Office Action. However, Applicant notes that the Examiner's objection to Page 2, lines 8-9 of the

specification appears to be incorrect. That is, the Examiner likely meant to indicate Page 3, lines 8-9, which has been amended herein (see Official Action, p. 4). With respect to the Examiner's objection to Page 8, lines 13-14, Applicant has changed paragraph [39] to indicate that the spherical ball is 310b. Applicant notes that the Examiner indicated that the drawing refers to the ball joint assembly as 310b, when in fact Fig. 3 shows the ball joint assembly as 310.

Also, claims 3, 4, 5, and 6 have been amended, as requested by the Examiner. In addition, Applicant has made certain amendments to claims 1-6 for enhanced clarity. Further, dependent claims 7-12 have been added to afford Applicant the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 7-12 add no prohibited new matter and recite elements that are not taught by the prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-12.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

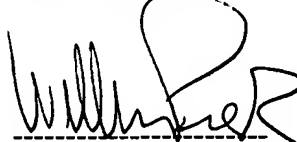
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present amendment is proper and that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as recited in claims 1-12.

Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet that includes a change to Fig. 1 replaces the original sheet labeled "PRIOR ART" Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, reference numerals "100", "110", "200", 210, and "211" have been changed to --1--, --11--, --20--, --21--, and --22-- respectively.

The attached drawing sheet that includes a change to Fig. 2 replaces the original sheet labeled Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, reference numerals --111--, --112--, and --113-- have been added, with lead lines.

The attached drawing sheet that includes a change to Fig. 3 replaces the original sheet labeled Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, reference numeral --410-- has been added, with lead line.

Attachments: 3 Replacement Sheets